

Washington Master Addressing Services

Overview of Services, Rates and Commitments

A history of inconsistent results in searching for and locating addresses in Washington has resulted in bad press and even legal action over the last decade. On March 18, 2013, the King 5 *Get Jesse* reported on transit taxing errors which highlighted just one of the implications of not having a consistent, master address file in Washington. Because of this, several agencies have been working collaboratively to:

- Improve our existing addressing tools and data services;
- Design and implement a process that brings a consistent and unified approach to addressing across the state;
- Return consistent results across all state agencies; and
- Allows for the correction, improvement of this information back into a master addressing file.

The **WA Master Addressing Services** (WAMAS) provide a common point of access to services that promote the easy use of location enriched data and services. These services can be consumed from a web page or from within a mainframe, desktop or server application. The suite of services (API's) have been developed to:

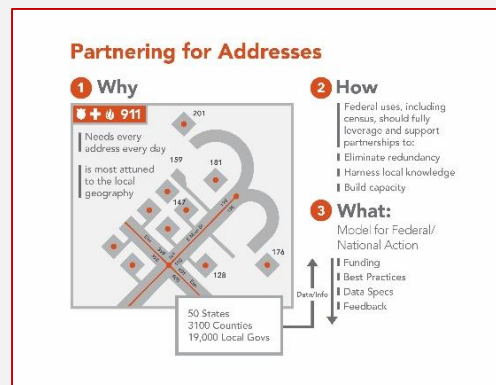
- Correct an address to US Postal Service standard format;
- Add coordinates to an address (geocode) so it can be displayed and verified on a map; and
- Locate an address in its right geographic area like a county, legislative, voting or taxing districts or other important place or area.

Business Value

This *enterprise approach* encourages government efficiencies by reducing the duplication of data storage, decreases infrastructure needs and promotes the shared development and maintenance of services that would otherwise be repeatedly done by multiple state agencies.

This type of information can be used in the following applications:

- Verification of an address & its associated geography;
- Correction of address lists to USPS standards;
- Correct sales tax determination, collection & distribution;
- Permitting & location verification;
- Improved Public Safety & Emergency Response;
- Siting of public health services; and
- Fraud detection.



This approach has been successfully implemented in other states like Minnesota, Maryland, Massachusetts and Utah where they've seen both savings and efficiencies in this service model.

Service Description

WAMAS is co-hosted with the state's GeoPortal which is another of the *Location Based* services offered to state and local governmental entities. Some of the WAMAS API's consume the GeoPortal services. By leveraging these shared environments, we're able to provide customers with a cost effective infrastructure to store, host and serve out shared resources important to conducting state business functions like permitting, licensing, taxation and protecting the public's health and environment in Washington.

This includes access to quality state and local data resources like:

- **Addressing Services:** A set of 3 API's that correct and standardize an address, finds its best location on the ground (geocode) and gives you its associated geography (county, legislative district, etc.)
- **Data and Imagery:** A place to assemble, host and serve commonly used data and high resolution imagery like statewide parcels, county and city boundaries, address locations, trails, urban growth areas and much more.
- **Other Services & API's:** Many of the services mentioned above are available in multiple formats making it easy for end users to ingest them into their mainframe, server or desktop applications and web bases service applications like visual address correct & mapping tools.

Think of it like Washington state specific Google mapping resources!

Service Availability

Based on its funding level, the Geospatial Portal Steering Committee currently defines service availability as:

- Ad-hoc GIS technical user and application support is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Infrastructure up time is guaranteed Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM with acceptable outage or downtimes not to exceed 48 hours, but our service provider strives for an uptime of 99 percent.
- Service availability may expand based on user defined needs and funding.

Governance Structure

The technical oversight of these shared resources is coordinated through Geographic Information Technology (GIT) subcommittee which is composed of representatives from the major user agencies. The committee works with WaTech IT Operations & Support Division on identifying and prioritizing infrastructure enhancements, and deployment of data and services.

The GIT Committee, which is administered by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), provides executive leadership in:

- Developing a strategic, coordinated, enterprise approach to using geographic information technology.
- Implementing cost-effective, collaboratively-developed, spatial data management solutions.

Rate Structure

The present rate structures was enacted by the State Legislature in 2014. The rate structure was based on IT FTE's and the \$189,000 per year cost is distributed across state government. The fees cover basic infrastructure and development costs.

More Information?

To leverage WAMAS Services please contact Joy Paulus (joy.paulus@ocio.wa.gov) or visit the WAMAS <https://ocio.wa.gov/initiatives/geospatial-program-office/washington-master-addressing-services-wamas>

For more information about geospatial services in Washington visit www.geography.wa.gov or <https://ocio.wa.gov/initiatives/geospatial-program-office>